

Message Text

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FOR CU/WE AND EUR/WE

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OEXC, IT

SUBJECT: IVP PROGRAM: PARTIAL GRANT FOR PUBLIO FIORI

REF: ROME 11774

1. DC LAZIO REGIONAL DEPUTY, PUBLIO FIORI, ADVISED EMBASSY THAT CONTINUING ITALIAN POLITICAL CRISIS PRECLUDES HIS ACCEPTANCE OF FULL MONTH'S IVP GRANT FOR TRAVEL IN SEPTEMBER. HE NONETHELESS WISHES VISIT THE US AT HIS OWN EXPENSE FOR TWO WEEK PERIOD, APPROXIMATELY SEPTEMBER 1-15. FIORI ASKED FOR ASSISTANCE IN ARRANGING USEFUL APPOINTMENTS AT FEDERAL, STATE AND LOCAL LEVELS.

2. DYNAMIC, YOUNG (EARLY THIRTIES), AND IDEOLOGICALLY COMMITTED TO US AND WEST, FIORI IS WELL-WORTH OUR ATTENTION AS A REFORMIST CHRISTIAN DEMOCRAT OF CONSIDERABLE PROMISE. AS PRESIDENT OF HIS PARTY'S GROUP FOR LAZIO (ROME) REGION, HIS EXPERIENCE AS DC OPPOSITION LEADER IN LEFTIST "GIUNTA" GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN THAT OF PRACTICAL, DAILY, DIRECT CONFRONTATION WITH PCI. FIORI HAS ESTABLISHED REPUTATION FOR SEIZING EVERY OPPORTUNITY TO TAKE OFFENSIVE AND SPEAK OUT AGAINST PCI. HE CLEARLY BELIEVES THAT, AS RESULT OF REGIONAL DECENTRALIZATION, MAJOR BATTLEGROUND WITH PCI WILL INCREASINGLY BE AT LOCAL LEVEL WHERE DECISIONS DIRECTLY AFFECTING VOTER INTERESTS ARE TAKEN. DURING LAST ELECTIONS, FIORI WAS ASSOCIATED WITH REFORMIST MILLE GROUP.

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3. DESPITE ABBREVIATED VISIT, WE CONTINUE SEE CONSIDERABLE BENEFITS IN FIORI VISIT AND RECOMMEND PARTIAL GRANT TO COVER ESCORT/INTERPRETER SERVICES DURING APPOINTMENTS. FIORI WOULD LIKE TO DIVIDE TWO WEEKS AVAILABLE TO HIM APPROXIMATELY EQUALLY BETWEEN WASHINGTON, NEW YORK AND BOSTON. HE HAS EXPRESSED INTEREST IN MEETING US POLITICAL LEADERS AT ALL LEVELS, IN ADDITION TO REPRESENTATIVES OF LABOR, BUSINESS AND CITY ADMINISTRATION. IN PARTICULAR, WE WOULD JUDGE MEETINGS WITH HEW, HUD, AND TRANSPORTATION AS PARTICULARLY USEFUL TO PROVIDE UNDERSTANDING OF US APPROACH TO URBAN PROBLEMS. FINALLY, FIORI WOULD LIKE TO VISIT AN AMERICAN UNIVERSITY, POSSIBLY IN BOSTON AREA, TOWARD END OF TRIP WHEN SCHOLASTIC YEAR REOPENS.

4. TO THE EXTENT POSSIBLE, FIORI WOULD LIKE TO MEET WITH SELECTED PERSONALITIES OF ITALIAN-AMERICAN ORIGIN (INCLUDING CONGRESSMEN). FIORI IS PARTICULARLY INTERESTED IN FORGING SUSTAINED LINKS AND POLITICAL TIES WITH AMERICANS OF ITALIAN DESCENT. IN THIS CONNECTION, FIORI IS INVOLVED IN CURRENT INITIATIVE TO LAUNCH "IDENTIFY," A MONTHLY MAGAZINE DIRECTED AT ITALO-AMERICANS, PILOT COPY OF WHICH BEING POUCHED TO EUR/WE.

5. FIORI WILL BE ACCOMPANIED BY WIFE AND ANOTHER COUPLE. HE WOULD LIKE TO DIVIDE TIME MORE OR LESS EVENLY BETWEEN CALLS THAT CAN BE ARRANGED FOR HIM AND TOURISM. HE WOULD WELCOME ANY SUGGESTIONS ON ACTIVITIES HE SHOULD INCLUDE ON TOURISTIC PORTION OF VISIT.

6. FIORI IS WELL-KNOWN TO FORMER EMBASSY POLITICAL OFFICER THEODORE RUSSEL (NOW PER/CA/TL) WHO UNDOUBTEDLY CAN PROVIDE ADDITIONAL INSIGHTS AND PROGRAM SUGGESTIONS.

7. RECOGNIZE UNUSUAL NATURE THIS GRANT REQUEST. HOWEVER, SEE PROVISION OF ESCORT-INTERPRETER AS MEANS OF GUIDING PROGRAM AND IN EFFECT GETTING EQUIVALENT OF FULL BENEFIT OF IVP GRANT FOR MINIMAL COST. IN VIEW OF REQUEST OF FULL GRANT FOR FIORI (ROME 11774), ALTERNATE NOMINATION FORTHCOMING IMMEDIATELY. APPRECIATE DEPARTMENT'S CONFIRMATION ASAP THAT SUITABLE PARTIAL GRANT PROGRAMMING CAN BE ARRANGED FOR FIORI.

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